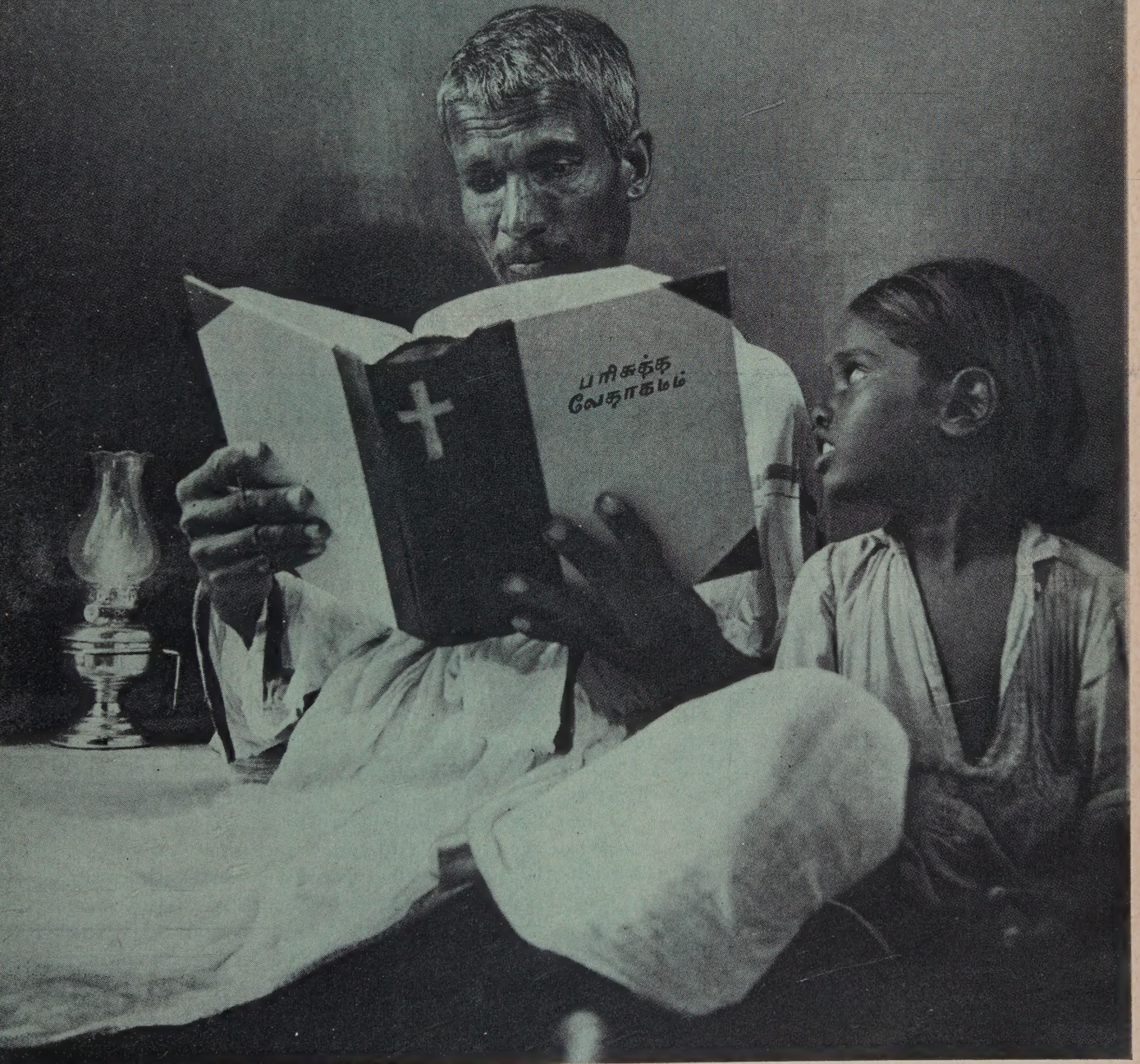


FEBRUARY 1961

Vol. 106, No. 2

BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



Trust in Him at all times . . .

Psalms 62:8

Secretary James Z. Nettinga and the Right Rev. Dr. Otto Dibelius with a copy of the Illustrated New Testament in German



By the Rev. Dr. James Z. Nettinga

the Book of POWER

ONCE AGAIN the Bible speaks in a human situation —this time in Germany. As Dr. Otto Dibelius, “Iron Curtain” Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg put it, “Like a hidden treasure, the impact of the Bible has come alive with an enriching power.”

Nineteen hundred years ago it spoke in another human situation. Then it was at Rome, when Paul’s letter arrived proclaiming the “Good News” of Christ, “the power of God unto salvation.” Little did Paul realize that his letter would become his “spiritual manifesto.”

Whoever is interested in the Christian faith and life must take into account this letter to the Romans. From the time when the author, Paul, nourished this early Christian fellowship with the Gospel, to the present time, when eighty-year old spiritual leader Otto Dibelius nourishes the soul of a great Christian community with Biblical messages of faith and freedom, this letter has aroused the church from lethargy, giving it the power inseparable from a vital understanding of its faith.

It was through this letter that God spoke to Augustine during a personal conflict between his ideals and his conduct. The power of God here proclaimed

changed him into one of the world’s greatest Christian thinkers.

It was through this letter that the power of God chastened Martin Luther and led him to the experience of a personal trust in God through faith.

It was through this letter that the power of God “strangely warmed” the dedicated heart of John Wesley, sending him forth to evangelize.

No wonder, then, that ten years ago a translation of this Letter to the Romans was published in Germany under the title *Eine Handvoll Dynamit* (A Handful of Dynamite), a word based on the Greek word “dynamis,” power.

No wonder, then, the Bible Societies are making this “power” available through Scriptures to the Bibelmission in Deutschland and supplying paper in East Germany through the Bibelanstalt at Altenburg.

No wonder that Bishop Dibelius said in a recent interview, “We face the future unafraid, for the Word shall stand forever. Here is power—the living God—who has promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church.”

Great masses in Germany today are rediscovering this power in God’s Word. Are we?

Bible Society Record

ONE OF AMERICA'S OLDEST RELIGIOUS JOURNALS, DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION
AND USE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, PUBLISHED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1818,
SERVING MORE THAN 700,000 FAMILIES

VOLUME 106

FEBRUARY 1961

NUMBER 2

A GUEST EDITORIAL

servants of the GOSPEL*

BY THE RT. REV. DR. LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

General Secretary of the International Missionary Council

OUR FAITH is that the Word of the Cross is in very truth the power of God unto salvation—not just the rescue of each one of us separately, but the healing, the making whole of the whole Creation and the fulfilling of God's whole will. Our faith is that the Cross is in truth the only event in human history which can properly be called the crisis of human history, and that the issue which is raised there for the entire human race is one beside which even the survival of human civilization on earth is a secondary matter. Our faith is that Christ has broken and destroyed the powers of sin and death, and that the keys of death and hell are in His hands. The Word of the Gospel is in sober truth the power of God. I have been led recently to think much of Our Lord's Parable of the Sower—about the seed which in itself is so insignificant a thing, which can fall by the wayside and be lost in the dust, or choked by weeds; but which, given the right circumstances, can have such enormous multiplying power.

In South India it is quite common to see by the roadside an old building into which by chance a seed has been dropped by a puff of wind. But it has fallen into the right place, germinated, put down roots and grown; and now the roots have forced the great granite blocks apart, penetrated and split open cracks in the stones themselves and finally reduced the building to ruin. The Word of the Gospel has that double quality.

It can seem to imply just a puff of wind, just talk; but in certain circumstances it can germinate and put down roots that go right into the interior life of whole communities, breaking open old structures of thought and practice and bringing forth living fruit. That is what I have seen happening in dozens of villages in South India, where the Gospel spreads from village to village because men cannot keep it to themselves. I have come to feel more and more the simple truth that it is the Gospel itself which is the power of God and that we—with all our apparatus—are, strictly speaking, only servants of the Gospel.



*In: "The Summons to Christian Mission"



by Dr. Dorothy E. L. Haas

Director, American Lutheran Church Women

"The Joyful Sound Proclaim." These words rang out clearly as members of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society sang the hymn which opened the Council's forty-second annual meeting at the Park-Sheraton Hotel, New York on November 15 and 16, where the main object was to proclaim "The Book for Everyone" until every nation has learned the Messiah's name.

This challenge stirred those in attendance from the first hymn to the final benediction. The meeting had

the effect on them of a world-circling drama in two acts, the first dealing with the Book for Everyone in the United States and second with the Book for Everyone in Every Nation. The characters consisted of the official staff of the American Bible Society and a group of denominational leaders.

As the curtain rose on Act I, the words of St. Paul sounded the keynote of the two days' sessions: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to

everyone who has faith . . ." The Rev. Dr. R. J. Danhof then reminded us of the important part power has in the world today; we find it in labor relations, business management, in nations competing against each other.

As Dr. Shields T. Hardin took his place as chairman of the first session, he emphasized the responsibility with which everyone in attendance was charged. As the drama progressed, we realized how negligent we have been in so many ways. Motivated by Christian compassion, he asserted, Americans spend billions of dollars to send food, clothing and medicine into the world, but, give only a pittance to supply the Bible.

The American Bible Society feels that American Christians have failed to make adequate presentation of the need to our churches.

Throughout the drama came voices speaking of a desperate need and a giant task. Need was expressed for new translations and revisions, for increased overseas distribution—especially in areas threatened by unchristian ideologies; for new literacies toward new Scriptures, for Scriptures going to the large number of men and women in the Armed Services.

In bringing home these needs to the delegates, certain field trips in the New York area were included. It was exciting to realize that, in the mental hospital without the Bible, the Rev. Francis K. Steeves' work would be greatly impoverished. Miss Louise A. Bashford took us to a home for migrants, people among whom the power of the Gospel must be made felt. The Rev. Warwick Aiken, Jr., together with members of his parish, escorted us to a "Bible in Every Home" project in his community of 6,000. Chaplain Harmon D. Moore reminded us of the value of the Testaments and Scripture Portions prepared by the American Bible Society for members of the Armed Forces, unable to carry whole Bibles with them. This closed the first act of the drama on the need for the Book of Books in the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, Secretary of Overseas Distribution, introduced the second act with his talk on "The Book for Everyone in Every Nation." Simulated transoceanic telephone conversations with overseas Secretaries were most informative. As pictures of the Secretaries were projected on a screen, we lis-



Dr. Haas, executive director, the American Lutheran Church Women, writer of the above article, and the Rev. Dr. James Z. Nettinga look at a special issue of the *Record*.

Dr. Daniel Burke (left), A.B.S. President, and the Rev. John T. Watson, General Secretary, British and Foreign Bible Society.



The Rev. Dr. Herman W. Gockel (left), and the Rev. Dr. O. C. J. Hoffmann, both of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Left to right—Mr. Paul Skiles and the Rev. Fred Parker, both of the Church of the Nazarene and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Harmon D. Moore.



Left to right—Secretary Gerald E. Boyce, Church Relations, the Rev. Dr. Harold E. Ingraham of the Southern Baptist Convention and Mr. Roy I. Madsen of the American Baptist Convention.



Left to right—Mrs. Paul Moser, Dr. C. Ralston Smith and Dr. Margaret Shannon all of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.



tened to taped conversations. The Society's New York line being connected with Brazil, India, Korea, the Near East and the Philippines, we were impressed with the fact that more and more of the people in executive positions are nationals. From them we learned that:

1. Literacy is increasing;
2. There is a tremendous demand for books;
3. Bibles must be supplied, or people will read other things;
4. The vastness of some countries and smallness of churches out there are great obstacles;
5. Large numbers of languages in one country can be a great obstacle, more translations then being needed;
6. Need for wider distribution at home and overseas is immense.

The American Bible Society highlighted some of its projects in great detail. The translation of the Haitian Creole New Testament helped the growth of one of the fastest-growing churches in Latin America. Secretary Ruth Barrett reminded us that there has been a Scripture-supply service of 125 years to the blind: with increasing population comes increasing blindness too.

Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, in his stimulating way, reminded us that: "We are united in the promise that God speaks through the Scriptures and are under compulsion to see to it that the Bible be made available to as many as possible." As the finale of the drama, a huge set of scales focused attention on the budget for the coming year. Anyone attending meetings sponsored by the Society eagerly anticipates the unique means often used by the staff in fiscal presentations. Our stewardship in relation to the American Bible Society was being weighed. In the light of the fact that four-fifths of the countries of the world are solely dependent on the Society for their supply of Scriptures, we were not satisfied with or proud of the figures we faced.

In closing, Secretary Gerald E. Boyce, of the Church Relations Department, responsible for these well-organized meetings, stated: "As we began with the Word, so we close with a reminder from the Word to distribute the Scriptures, that 'the world may believe.'"

He kept his vow

THIS is the story of a man who went half way round the world to keep a vow. His name? It doesn't really matter. People call him "Barbarossa" because of a flaming red beard and a head as bald as an egg.

During the last war, in the midst of heavy artillery fire, this Barbarossa from England vowed that, if God spared his life, he would return some day to India to work among the Muslims, whom he had grown to admire for their stubborn will.

Barbarossa took up residence in the midst of a strict orthodox group of Muslims. He tried as far as he could to dress as they did and eat their food. Each day he visited their part of town and spoke in the busy market place. One day an angry shopkeeper spat in his face and called him a "heathen pig." Barbarossa wiped his face, smiled and quietly walked away.

Day after day Barbarossa continued to go about these people, distributing Bibles and tracts wherever he could. Eventually the Muslim priests in the vicinity protested to the authorities. They charged that this intruder was a public nuisance who was turning Muslims away from the Prophet Mohammed to the Prophet Jesus. The people now began to jeer and interrupt Barbarossa when he tried to speak in the center of the crowded bazaar. So, lifting a hand, he cried: "Please hear me just once more! Listen, and I promise I shall leave."

As he stood there in the middle of the square, he suddenly pulled off his turban. The blazing sun seemed to reflect its rays from his bald head as from a sparkling mirror.

"Look," he continued, rubbing his smooth head, "God has given me a natural bald head, but your priests must shave their heads. Neither has Allah given them natural red beards; they must dye their beards. But see what a thick red beard God has given to me! Although I am no longer permitted to speak to you here in the market place, be assured that I shall remember you and continue to pray for you, commending you to the Great Prophet Jesus, who can enable you to love as victoriously as He loved. If you need me in any way, come to me. You know where I live."

By this time the crowd started to laugh. But there was one in that crowd who was strangely moved. It was the man who had spat in Barbarossa's face. Late that night he went to Barbarossa's room and apologized.

"Now," said the Muslim, "I am ready to know more about the Prophet Jesus, who can make love possible. Somehow I always felt that people wrote about love in books because that is the only place it can exist."

So among that fanatical Muslim community one person accepted the Master. It was only one; but praise God, it was one.

The last time Barbarossa was seen, he was making his way toward the border of Kashmir, intent on keeping his vow.

BLAISE LEVAT



From Haiti: the Rev. Fritz Fontus (right), Baptist minister from Haiti, and Dr. William A. Smalley of the American Bible Society Translations Department examine a copy of the new Haitian Creole Testament with Psalms recently published by the Society. Mr. Fontus explained some of the cultural and historical background which makes this Testament strategic in the life of the Haitian Church.

around the world



From Israel: Mr. Otto Wallish of Israel (right) designs postage stamps with Biblical motifs for the Israeli government. A recent visitor to Bible House, he is shown with Dr. Ralph Mortensen of the Church Relations Department.

From Switzerland: M. Olivier Béguin, General Secretary of the United Bible Societies, and Mrs. Jesse M. Bader chat informally between sessions at a recent Overseas Department meeting.



From Germany: the Rev. James T. Smith (center), Regional Secretary, California, and the Rev. Robert Bingham present Scriptures to a German refugee at Girls' Town in Arlington, California. Sufficient Scriptures were provided for all the students.

with the American Bible Society...



From England: the Rev. John' T. Watson (left) and the Rev. Dr. Norman J. Cockburn, General Secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, at the Bible House in New York, where they recently led a regular weekly staff devotional meeting.



From Japan: Colporteur Shimura of the Japan Bible Society distributes Gospels among the people of the Yaeyama Islands of the Ryukyu group.

UNLOCKING THE BIBLE IN INDIA



by Dr. Leslie C. Sayre,
*Secretary for Promotion of the Committee on World
Literacy and Christian Literature*

AT THIS MOMENT the Bible is shut tight against 700 million adults. Illiteracy is the lock; the key is a program of many denominations which has been coordinated through the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature.

A few glimpses at reports from the literacy committee in India show that the Bible and literacy are closely related.

The Marathi committee says: "Our aim is to make the church a Bible-reading church through literacy, and not only that, but to use literacy to further the campaign of evangelism and help to make our church more evangelical." Three Bible schools give training in literacy, "so when their women students become Bible teachers, they are able to conduct literacy classes through their churches."

The same happy relationship is contained in a note of thanksgiving from north west India. "The entire Bible is now published in Gurmukhi-Panjabi so that those who have recently learned to read can have the Bible in this script that they have learned." Here is how this may affect the life of a newly literate Christian.

Shri Barakat Masih, a village Christian, has never been to school. He was taught to read by one of the missionaries. In spite of being very busy with his work in the fields, he has managed to learn and remember by heart the whole of the Epistle to the Hebrews. He has the gift of a marvelously retentive memory. Literacy has enabled him to use and show forth this natural gift for the glory of his Lord. Literacy is an integral part of the work of councils of churches overseas. Primers and readers are prepared interdenominationally for given language areas. The council helps train organizers and teachers. The local churches and missions then make literacy a part of their ongoing year-round program. Participants readily witness to the effectiveness of the program.

The Amritsar diocese reports that adult literacy work is going on with the usual speed and zeal throughout the mass-movement area, stating that "Most of the ministers in charge of the village congregations are well aware of the fact that the church in India cannot make progress and grow strong so long as its masses remain fettered by illiteracy."

But how do you know when a person is literate? You might think it sufficient when a person has finished the primers and "The Story of Jesus." However, the Bengal standard of literacy is reached when a student is able to read simple Gospel stories, write postcards and keep accounts. The Santal goal is, "Every church member a Bible-reading member." In many districts of India forty percent of our fellow Christians have not yet reached it.

As literacy campaigns produce newly literate people, simple literature is produced to suit their capacity and interest. The Medak diocese of the Church of South India reports that few follow-up books have been prepared in Telugu. They have planned a

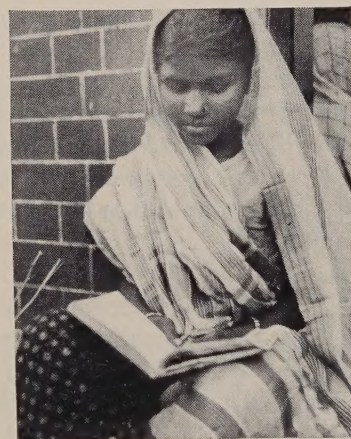
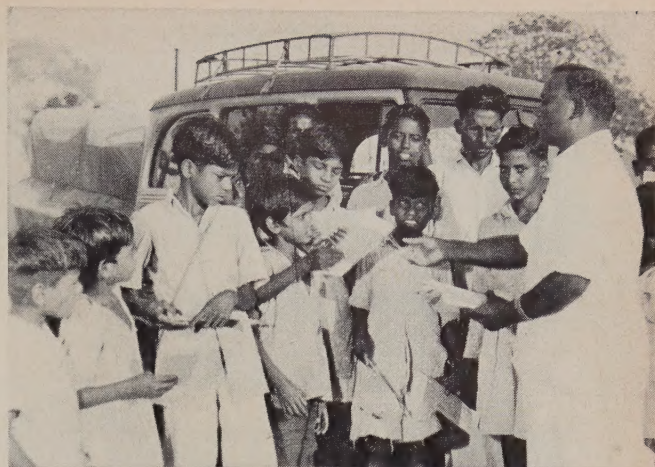


"Writers' Workshop" to fill the need, and the Bible Society is printing a simplified Gospel of St. Mark.

The Uktal area has 1,500 illiterates enrolled in classes. Each year the church comes closer to its goal of a literate membership. A competitive effort called "Bible Stories in Verse" has been launched. "We hope that the results of this competition," states the report concerned, "will give us material for the printing of a book with five stories each from the Old and New Testaments. Twenty-three village libraries have been placed, but we have requests far beyond our means. A large-scale writers' institute is being planned, to be led by Miss Marion Van Horne of New York." A picture of fervent activity comes from Tamil-Nad. Four hundred were given an eight-day course in adult literacy methods; 9,222 adult students enrolled in literacy classes; 4,012 received literacy certificates; 34 libraries were established. It is hoped that as the churches begin to realize the importance of adult education as a means to the study of the Word of God, they will come forward with the necessary funds to further this very effective aspect of the work of the church.

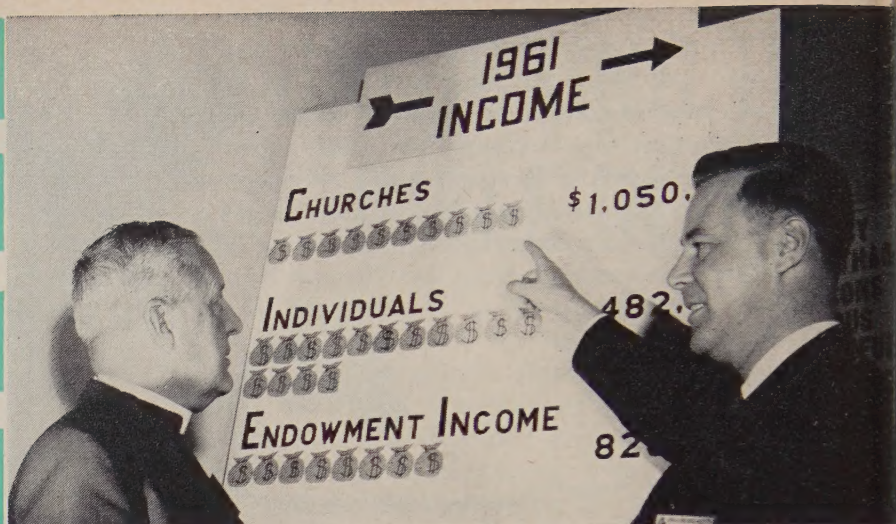
Love of the Bible is combined with delight in reading in this plea by a Lushai Christian: "I am now seventy-six years old and, according to human expectation, it is evident that I shall not long remain on earth. The complete Bible is what I have chiefly longed and yearned for. If, after turning over the pages of the complete Bible as much as I wish, I then have to leave this world, I shall consider myself to have achieved fulfillment." In the part of Assam where this man lives, forty languages have not yet been studied for the purpose of primer-making.

Dr. John P. Naumann has just retired as Literature Secretary for the India National Council of Churches. His concluding words again unite this program and the preeminent importance of the Bible Society: "Unless each Christian is a Bible-reading Christian, there will never be the growth that will make the Church of Christ a nobler church, nobler than its fellow associations and organizations that work for the uplift of humanity. There is no nobler work we can do than to open the eyes of the blind, and to free the captive from the chains of ignorance and superstition, and to bring him to the knowledge of God through the saving work of Jesus Christ."



an arm of the Church

BY CHARLES W. BAAS,
Treasurer



Dr. Harold S. Miller, of the Advisory Council (left) and Mr. Baas

A BIBLE in Japanese was given to a student through the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church Student Center in Tokyo. Yoshiaki Yoshida, a student in his senior year, then asked after a meeting of students to speak to ULCA Missionary Norman H. Nuding, Director of the Center. "Some time ago, did you see the movie, 'The Robe'?" he inquired—"Yes, I did," Pastor Nuding replied; "but why do you ask?"—"Well, when I saw it I didn't understand it. I do now." He then unfolded a story about a recent crucial time in his life.

Deeply dejected, he made the journey to a chosen mountain. He drank *sake* to nerve himself for the plunge but sank into a stupor instead. Patrolling mountain rangers brought him back to his family. The added chagrin of this failure led him to the verge of a breakdown. At this point he picked up the Bible given him by the Lutheran Student Center and started reading. He could not stop; Yoshiaki Yoshida began to read himself out of despondency. He reported that he first came to see what sin was—a separation from the love that God offers each life. Then followed the healing of this condition, bringing power and peace to his life. As he finished, he asked Pastor Nuding, "Can I be baptized?" Today this young Christian business man exerts a strong influence because in a moment of need his hands found a Bible.

The Bible was provided through the American Bible Society as part of a Bible Society movement in the early 1800's, when the whole Bible or Portions of Scripture had been published in only 71 languages, whereas today the Scriptures exist, at least in part, in more than 1,150 languages. Currently the Scriptures are appearing in a new language at the rate of more than one a month, yet even at this pace considerable time will elapse before some Scripture is provided for over 1,000 language areas scattered throughout the world which as yet have nothing of God's Word. Scriptures for these, coupled with pressures to provide more or new versions of the Bible in hundreds of other languages to meet the advance of millions into literacy, prod the Bible Society into an ever greater sense of urgency.

The aim of publishing readable, durable Scriptures at low cost has led the Society to develop many centers of publication throughout the world. The distribution for 1960 has exceeded 20,000,000 volumes. The target for this year is 22,000,000.

To finance this sharply expanding distribution the Bible Society has adopted for 1961 the largest budget in its history—\$4,307,000. The Society needs the help of everyone to attain this goal. Only through *your* gifts can the Word of God reach the Bibleless throughout the world. *Your help is needed . . .*

the 1961 Budget

ESTIMATED INCOME	
Churches.....	\$1,050,000
Individuals.....	1,450,000
Auxiliaries.....	20,000
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	12,000
Gifts from Living Donors.....	\$2,532,000
Permanent Trusts and Other	
Investment Income.....	820,000
Legacies (applied).....	380,000
Annuities (applied).....	575,000
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET INCOME	\$4,307,000

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	
Distribution of Scriptures, U.S.A.....	\$1,147,202
Distribution of Scriptures Abroad.....	1,649,752
Translation and Plates.....	370,046
Bible Society Record, Promotion of Use, Publicity and Visual Aids.....	526,588
Promotion of Income.....	382,473
Administration, Treasurer's Office, etc.....	230,939
TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE	\$4,307,000

Why we go to the Jungle

By The Rev. John H. Twentyman
Secretary of the Bible Societies in Peru

AS THE plane was preparing to land, it circled the small Machiguenga village of Camisea, situated on a tributary of the upper Uрубamba River in the heart of the Peruvian jungle. This could mean a most fascinating and thrilling day for the tourist. Here were Indians almost untouched by the white man's ways, living in their picturesque and colorful surroundings of tall, stately trees whose foliage displayed half a dozen different hues of green. A quiet, placid river flowed lazily by, barely twenty yards away, with an abundant supply of fish; the tranquil silence of the jungle was broken only by the captivating calls of brightly plumaged parrots, parakeets, macaws and numerous other varieties of birds overhead.

The village itself consisted of a long row of some fifteen huts, built of cane with thatched roofs and a floor of palm bark stretched about two feet above ground. The Indians, although speaking only their own language, received us cordially. As we strolled from one hut to the next, scenes exciting to a photographer continually presented themselves—barefooted young men clad only in their native *cushma* (a home-made, loose-fitting garment reaching from the shoulders to within fifteen inches of the ground) sat in school—a simple, open-sided thatched hut, with boys eight to ten years old, all eagerly but not without difficulty learning to read and write. A roasted monkey lay over the glowing embers, all ready for the evening meal. An old woman squatted on the ground in the process of preparing *masato* by repeatedly stirring a large container of banana and yucca. Every now and

then she would chew a mouthful of the mixture and then spit it back into the bowl until the whole was fermented. As we passed on, two sinister-looking men in their *cushmas*, with painted faces, who were reported to have recently killed one of their fellow countrymen, sat leering at us. Here, indeed, were exotic scenery and entrancing bird life; here were Indians with intriguing customs.

Ah, but there is another side to the story. The discerning eye can see behind the outward tranquillity of the Indian a battered soul tossed hither and thither by the uncertainties of his life, with his constant fear of the evil spirits whose sole purpose, it seems to him, is to bring harm, sickness and death. Behind the strange customs are the superstitions of generations, ever directed toward the pleasing of the supernatural and powerful beings who, regardless of all the endeavors of the helpless Indian, always manage to hold him captive to fear, hate and revenge. Behind the exotic scenery lurk myriads of pernicious and dangerous insects, snakes and alligators, every one of them a torment or menace to the poor human who lives in these regions.

Here, in circumstances which for one short day may provide a thrilling adventure for the tourist, the mis-

sionary sees—despite difficulties and dangers, disease and loneliness—the lost souls of men and women for whom Christ died. As he listens to their impotent groanings and cries, he hears the voice of the Almighty, challenging him to bring the Gospel to the Machiguengas and to a score, nay, to hundreds, of other tribes who have never heard of the love of Jesus Christ for them, never experienced the peace of God in their hearts. How could they, when they still live in the midst of hate and in constant fear of death?

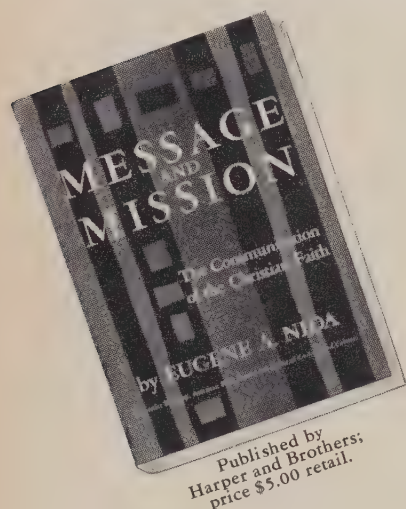
So, the missionary lives with them, shares their sorrows, their sicknesses, their huts, their food; he learns their language, their customs. . . . In time the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ illumines their lives, and they become new creatures in Him. This is a miracle of Divine grace that takes place because some child of God has felt that "the love of Christ constraineth us." And as each new language receives a Portion of God's Word in printed form, the Bible Society once again becomes the handmaid of Christian missions.

A Shipibo Indian pastor and his young wife.



a Book Review

Special for the *Record*
by NORMAN COUSINS
Editor, *Saturday Review*



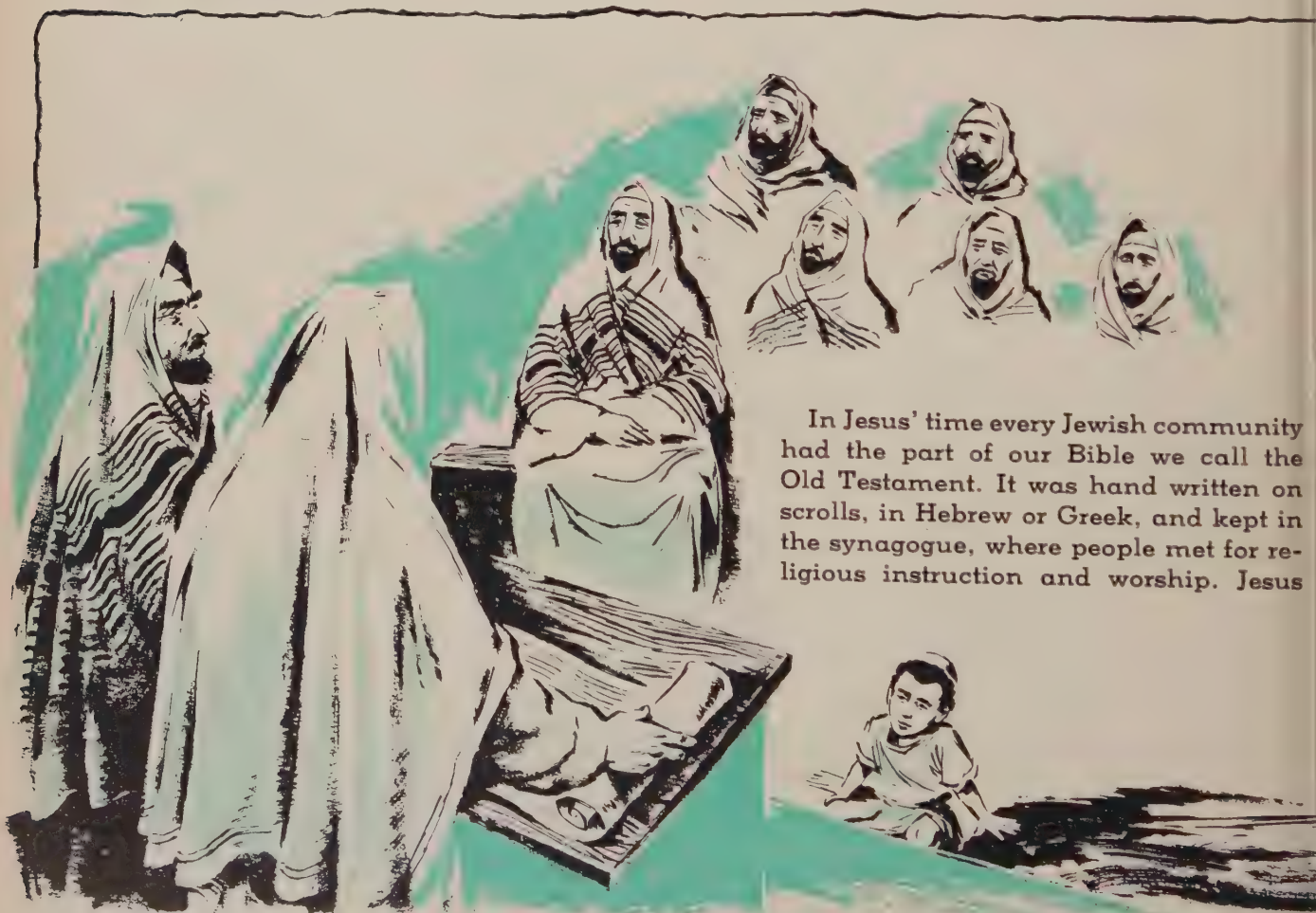
THE BEST BOOKS have a way of accomplishing even more than their dustjackets claim for them, and by this criterion Eugene Nida's "Message and Mission" is certainly one of the outstanding religious books of the year.

Dr. Nida is a well-known linguist and an executive Secretary of the American Bible Society; his main aim in writing the book was to make the latest findings of the social scientists available to those Protestants

who are engaged—as the subtitle puts it—in "The Communication of the Christian Faith."

"Message and Mission" handsomely fulfills its author's intent; indeed, it is not only a useful handbook of ideas for Protestant ministers, missionaries and lay workers, but also a valuable reference work for the general reader who is concerned with the problem of erecting bridges between disparate value systems.

Most of the volume's 250-odd pages are devoted to a crisp, straightforward account of recent findings in the social sciences as they relate to the Protestant proselytizing effort. The book makes it clear that a firm grounding in the disciplines outlined by Dr. Nida is advisable for today's missionary. For example, pity the divine who, not having read the book, arrives tired and hungry in a Kaka village in the Cameroun and, all unknowing, asks a local maiden to cook him a meal: it seems that "asking a Kaka woman for food is the generally accepted way of suggesting that she become his."



In Jesus' time every Jewish community had the part of our Bible we call the Old Testament. It was hand written on scrolls, in Hebrew or Greek, and kept in the synagogue, where people met for religious instruction and worship. Jesus

Dr. Nida also cites the dilemma of early Protestant missionaries among the Navajos, who learned that the word "God" was almost identical with the Navajo word for "juniper bush." To this day many of the polite but puzzled Indians think the white man's religion is "worship of the juniper bush." The resourceful missionaries have got around the problem to a large extent by introducing as an equivalent for "God" the Navajo word for "eternal spirit." Spicing his narrative with such concrete examples, many of them drawn from his own years of experience "in the field," Dr. Nida surveys the problem of Christian communication from a variety of vantage points, drawing on the work of David Riesman, Clyde Kluckhohn, Robert Redfield, Count Alfred Korzybski, Donald McGavran, J. B. Phillips, Marie and William Reyburn, and E. V. Rieu, among others.

His purview includes the natural sciences, from which he borrows the example of the second law of thermodynamics to explain why "Once a

Christian movement has reached its peak . . . it normally tends to 'cool off' . . . faith tends to become *creed* and *creed* ends up as mere *recitation*.

Such senescent Christian movements may be revitalized if new socio-cultural "information" is supplied to them, although "In the ultimate analysis, despite all social, political or economic factors . . . the power is of God, or the movement is not Christian." Dr. Nida's special use of the word "information" is of course derived from cybernetics, a science whose Christian implications are explored in a timely section titled "Information Theory."

Other rewarding passages deal with the types and structure of communication, the meaning of symbols, the nature of meaning, the problem of Scriptural translation, and communication as seen in its cultural context. The latter passage contains an especially rewarding treatment of "indigenization vs. syncretism," i.e., the crucial problem of adapting the creed to local conditions without destroying its meaning and integrity.

Dr. Nida has written an exemplary *vade mecum* of communications techniques, a wide-angle lens through which many of the latest findings in the social sciences are brought to focus on one of the major problems of the time—that of effectively communicating the Christian faith.



Dialects are discussed by the Bible Society's Philippines Translations Consultant, the Rev. Lumen C. Roble (left), and Secretary Nida.

the Bible Jesus knew

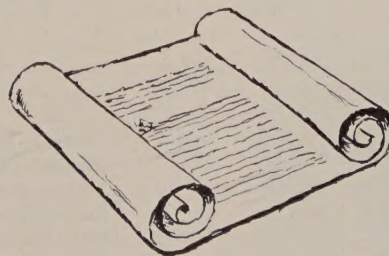
read from a scroll like this in the synagogue at Nazareth.

The scrolls were made from goatskins or sheepskins, sewed together to make rolls from ten to thirty feet long. Usually one book was written on each scroll. The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were first written in Hebrew, but by the time of Jesus they had been translated into Greek, which was then an international language. The earliest Old Testament manuscript now known is a Hebrew scroll of Isaiah which was probably written about one hundred years before Jesus was born.

This and fifteen other short stories from

"Our Most Precious Heritage" are now available together in booklet form at twenty cents; for ten or more booklets, at fifteen cents a copy.

The pictures used in this booklet are also available in a four-part color filmstrip for \$15 with a 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm record, script and teacher's guide. Without the record the price is \$12.



Bible Society Record

Published Continuously Since 1818

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

The American Bible Society is the missionary agency of your church for translating, publishing, distributing and encouraging the use of the Holy Scriptures around the world.

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the

Managing Editor

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 106 FEBRUARY 1961 No. 2

Important Meetings

November Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society was held at the Bible House on Thursday, November 3, 1960, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. Alvin A. Ahern, D.D.

Mr. Francis W. Carpenter was elected a member of the Board of Managers.

A set of the new picture posters for the "History of the English Bible" was presented to the Board.

Copies of the new booklet "Our Most Precious Heritage" were distributed.

President Eisenhower's letter on Universal Bible Week was read by Secretary Nettinga.

It was reported that during the third quarter of 1960 a total of 12,806 embossed volumes and Talking Book records were sent out to the blind.

First editions of the Gospel of Matthew on four records and the Gospel of Mark on three records, all in Spanish, were presented to the Board.

December Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society was held at the Bible House on Thursday, December 1, 1960, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary Nettinga.

Dr. Henry Allan Gleason, Jr., was elected a ministerial member of the Board to serve on the Translations Committee.

The budget for 1961 was considered and adopted.

A report on the meetings of the Advisory



Letters

Letters from Thai Priests

"I would like to have one of your Bibles. I know it teaches me to do good things. Would you please accept me as one of your members and send me such a book from time to time?"

"Thank you for the Book of Romans, which I just received, and thank you for sending books to me from time to time. I have finished reading it and feel very interested in it. Do you have any Bible lesson which I can learn by mail? Kindly let me know."

"I am one of the members of Bible Correspondent Course, 'The Light of Life!' I have finished studying the Book of John and want to know what comes next to the book of John. Please send it to me."

Letters from Vietnamese

"Many people here in South know about your Bible. I am one of them who want to know too. Would you please accept me as one of your members and send Portion to me every month?"

"Do you have the book about 'The Ten Commandments?' Please send me one."

Other Letters

"Dear Sirs:

Please send me a copy of your latest color center spread of the *Record*. It is such a lovely thing, I feel that I would like to have one to frame and hang in my home. The entire magazine is unusually fine. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frances Nicholson
1223 1/2 NW 29th St.,
Oklahoma City, Okla."

"Dear Sirs:

The center double page in the November *Record* is breathtaking and undoubtedly this is the finest issue so far. I've saved the cover picture and also clipped many of the fine articles. My compliments to all who made it so beautiful and inspirational. May you all have a joyous holiday as you have helped to make mine a joyous one.

Laura Sebesta
Bryan, Texas."

Council, November 15 and 16, was presented by Secretary Boyce.

It was reported that 1,011,835 copies of the Scriptures were distributed in Korea for the period November 1959—September 1960.

There was a request for 120,000 Christmas Portions for distribution in Venezuela this year, 5,000 copies having been distributed in August.



He Has Risen . . .

. . . These are the triumphant words of the Easter story.

Share the true joy of Easter by giving or sending the Gospel of John (King James or Revised Standard Version) in its attractive light-blue Easter cover. Don't forget hospital patients, shut-ins, church members, Sunday-school pupils and neighbors. This beautifully covered Gospel (actual size) is offered for \$3.00 per hundred, postpaid. On orders for less than 100, add 10¢ for postage. To assure delivery order before March 2 and include remittance. Allow at least three weeks. Send your order to the American Bible Society agency nearest you:

85 Walton Street, Atlanta 3, Georgia

310 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 1, Illinois

2233 Bryan Street, Dallas 21, Texas

440 Park Avenue, South, New York 16, New York

1662 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 17, California

Dr. W. J. Lutjeharms of the Belgian Bible Society describes the use made of certain of its leaflets: "If people show a little interest in the Bible, the colporteur may give them one of these leaflets. On the back cover they will find information about our Bible editions, and on the inside they will find important passages from the Old and New Testaments. People are thus led to see that both Testaments treat of the same subject—the love of God toward mankind. They will perhaps become more interested, so that they desire to read other papers too."

Daily Bible Reading

Let the Bible speak to you daily.
Read the Bible prayerfully; read it as
the living Word of God.

FEBRUARY

1.....	Ruth.....	4:1-22
2.....	John.....	6:1-21
3.....	John.....	6:22-40
4.....	John.....	6:41-71
5.....	John.....	7:1-24
6.....	John.....	7:25-52
7.....	John.....	7:53-8:20
8.....	John.....	8:21-38
9.....	John.....	8:39-59
10.....	John.....	9:1-23
11.....	John.....	9:24-41
12.....	1 Samuel.....	8:1-22
13.....	1 Samuel.....	9:1-20
14.....	1 Samuel.....	15:10-31
15.....	John.....	10:1-21
16.....	John.....	10:22-42
17.....	John.....	11:1-29
18.....	John.....	11:30-57
19.....	Romans.....	8:18-39
20.....	Psalms.....	41:1-13
21.....	Psalms.....	69:1-21
22.....	Psalms.....	118:1-29
23.....	Psalms.....	130:1-8
24.....	John.....	12:1-19
25.....	John.....	12:20-50
26.....	Matthew.....	16:13-28
27.....	Matthew.....	20:17-34
28.....	Matthew.....	21:12-22

We always enjoy hearing from our many readers and should appreciate receiving a note or card from you telling us how these Daily Bible Readings are helping you. Write today for your free 1961 Bible Reading bookmark to: American Bible Society, 440 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N.Y.

FROM OUR PRAYER CALENDAR*—

The Prayer for February—

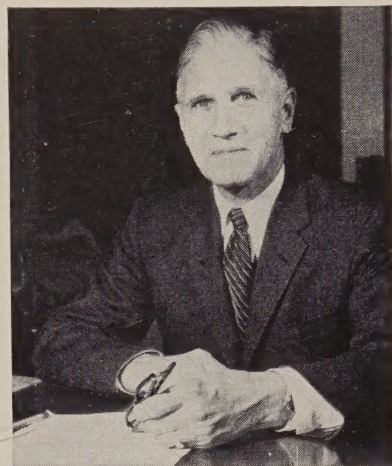
FAR EAST—Pray that many tribespeople in remote villages may be reached and respond to the Gospel.

*Won't you and your family join us in praying for the advancement of God's Word? Send for your free copy of Our Prayer Calendar.

Memorialize the Name of a Loved One . . .

by The Rev. A. Paul Wright

MEMORIAL GIFTS to the American Bible Society in amounts of \$10 or more will be recorded in a beautiful red leather-bound Book of Remembrance, prominently displayed on a memorial desk on the first floor of the Bible House in New York.



The specially prepared book and desk are the gifts of a generous friend of the Society in the State of Michigan.

This memorial book will record the donor's name and the name of the loved one who is memorialized. If desired, a special designation for the use of the gift may be entered as part of the memorial statement in the book. Gifts of fifty dollars or more will be announced in the *Bible Society Record*.

An *In Memoriam* card bearing the names of the memorialized and the donor is sent at once to the bereaved family. The gift is consecrated to the ministry of providing the Scriptures in many languages to all mankind.

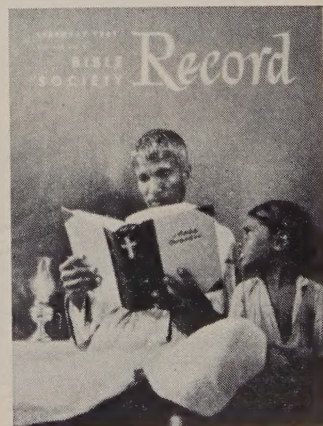
The Society furnishes special memorial gift forms, gladly sent upon request. Friends of the Society are invited to write for these forms so that they will be available when a loved one or friend is called to be with his Lord. Requests may be directed to me—the Rev. A. Paul Wright, American Bible Society, 440 Park Avenue South, New York 16, New York.

Our Cover, "TRUST"—

Our cover picture, taken by Blaise Levai, captures the expression of trust on the faces of this father and son in a little village home of South India, where the mother has just died.

* * *

Be sure to read in the March Issue: "The Triumph," by the Rev. Dr. James S. Stewart.



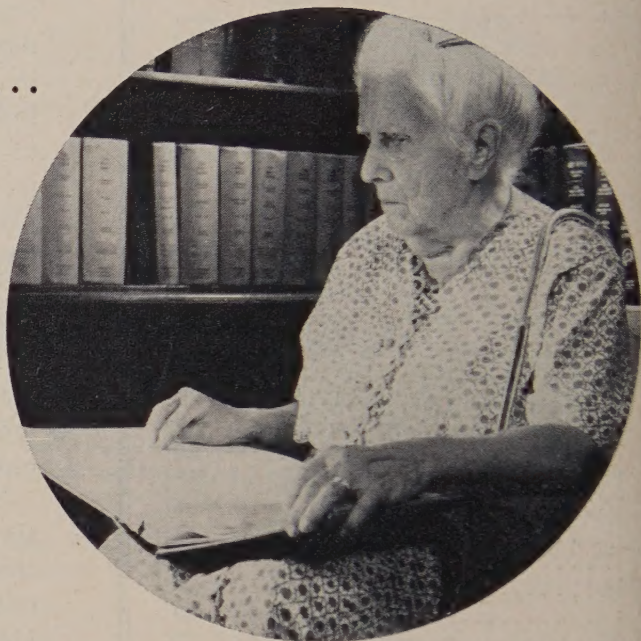
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* New Hope

* New Courage



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more advantages than you receive from conventional insurance—but this Christian Savings Plan also helps substantially in the world-wide, many-sided, missionary work of the society?

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In 1835 the Society underwrote the very first Bible for the blind . . . thus far has issued the Scriptures for the blind in more than 42 systems and languages . . . supplies Braille volumes and Talking Bible records at a tiny fraction of the actual cost so that those who read with their fin-

ger tips or can hear the spoken word may receive the Light that is Life.

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